PRESIDENT: Yes. Representations have been personally made to me by unemployed persons of the Cashewnut Factories in Quilon. I have also received representations from unemployed persons of South Travancore and of North Travancore. It has been decided that doles of rice will be given to them until they get employment.

Coir factories in the Vaikom Taluk.

207 *MR. K. R. NARAYANAN (*Vaikom* cum *Kottayam*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) the number of coir factories in the Vaikom taluk,

(*b*) the total number of employees who were working in all these factories; and

(*c*) the number of factories where work is being carried on at present?

MR. C. KUMARA DAS: (*a*) 5.

(*b*) Information is not available.

(*c*) Nil.

MR. P. KUNJUKRISHNAN: May I know how the Director of Industries got the figure 5 with reference to part (a) of the question?

MR. C. KUMARA DAS: I got the figure from the report of the Board of Conciliation constituted in connection with the Mats and Mattings Industries disputes.

MR. P. KUNJUKRISHNAN: May I know why these factories were closed down?

MR. C. KUMARA DAS Because, due to war, the output of these factories could not find markets and so the factories were forced to close down.

MR. P. KUNJUKRISHNAN: May I know the proportion of unemployed factory labourers to unemployed non-factory labourers?

MR. C. KUMARA DAS. I am not sure of the proportion. But a large proportion are non-factory labourers.

Coir factories closed down in the State.

208 *MR. P. KUNJUKRISHNAN: Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) the number of coir factories closed down in the State due to the recent war situation and the consequent lull in business;

(*b*) the approximate number of labourers employed in the above factories who have been thrown out of employment;

(*c*) the approximate number of non-factory coir labourers in the State who have been thrown out of employment as a consequence of war situation;

(*d*) the regions or taluks chiefly affected by the unemployment among coir labourers (both non-factory and factory) in the State; and

(*e*) the steps taken by the Government so far for amelioration of the deplorable condition of the coir labourers in the State?

MR. C. KUMARA DAS: (*a*) About 290.

(*b*) About 30,000.

(*c*) Information is not available.

(*d*) Ambalapuzha, Shertallai and part of Vaikom.

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